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JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION SINCE 1877

BRIEFS

GAINES IS NOMINEE FOR SECOND TERM

PHOENIX (BP) — Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) President Steve Gaines, senior pastor of Bellevue Church in suburban Memphis, will be nominated for a second term by his son Grant at the June 13-14 annual meeting of the SBC in Phoenix. Grant Gaines is pastor of Calvary Church in Jackson, Tenn. Steve Gaines has served as president of the SBC Pastors' Conference (2005), preached the convention sermon (2004), and was a member of the committee that recommended revisions of the Baptist Faith and Message in 2000 that were subsequently adopted by messengers.

ERLC SETS FOCUS OF NATIONAL MEETING

NASHVILLE (BP) — Christ-centered parenting is the emphasis at the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC) national conference August 24-26 in Nashville entitled, "Parenting: Christ-centered Parenting in a Complex World." At the conference ERLC will unveil a new, small group study in collaboration with LifeWay entitled, "Christ-centered Parenting: Gospel Conversations on Complex Cultural Issues." A study guide includes articles to read between sessions, plus information sheets divided into six age categories of children.

TEXAS PROPOSAL WILL SHIELD FAITH GROUPS

AUSTIN, Texas (BP) — A bill offering legal protection for faith-based foster and adoption care agencies is on its way to the Texas Senate floor for debate. Biblically-faithful agencies in the state, at odds with the politics of sexual identity, are seeking relief to allow them to continue ministering to children in accordance with their faith. However, House Bill 3859 is being challenged and supporters both inside and outside the Legislature are being accused of discrimination and bigotry. If passed by the Republican-controlled Legislature, Republican Governor Greg Abbott is expected to sign it into law.

Mississippi Baptist to pray at SBC meet

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

David Jett, senior pastor of Crossgates Church in Brandon, has been invited to offer the closing prayer at the June 13 morning session of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) annual meeting in Phoenix.



JETT

In addition, former Mississippi Baptist pastor Chuck Herring will fill the same role for the annual meeting's June 13 afternoon session.

Saltillo native Herring, currently the senior pastor of Collierville First Church in Collierville, Tenn., was senior pastor at First Church, Richland, in Rankin Association from 1994-2003.

Planners have said interest expressed in the annual meeting this year is high enough to reserve an additional block of 500 hotel and motel rooms for attendees. The block of rooms initially reserved for the annual meeting was fully booked as early as March, said Bill Townes, SBC Executive Committee vice president for convention finance, in an April interview with Baptist Press (BP).

see SBC on p. 9

Pray!

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

2017 SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

JUNE 13-14 PHOENIX

LUKE 11:1, ESTHER 4:14

2017 Southern Baptist Convention Schedule

Tuesday Morning, June 13	11:45 Closing Prayer	8:25 Scripture and Prayer
8:15 Opening Worship		8:30 Comm. on Order of
8:25 Welcome/Call to Order	Tuesday Afternoon, June 13	Business Report (Fourth)
Announcements of	1:15 Opening Worship	8:45 Previously Scheduled Business
Comm. on Committees	1:25 Scripture and Prayer	9:00 WMU Report
Credentials Comm.	1:30 Message from God's Word	9:12 NAMB Report
Tellers Comm.	1:45 Election of Officers (First)	9:24 IMB Report
Resolutions Comm.	1:50 Comm. on Committees Report	9:36 Worship
2:00 Comm. on Nominations Report		9:45 Convention Sermon
8:30 Scripture and Prayer	2:10 Election of Officers (Second)	10:25 Prayer of Response
8:35 Registration Report	2:15 Executive Comm. Report (Part 2)	10:30 Joint Seminary Presentation
Constitution of Convention	3:15 Election of Officers (Third)	and Reports
8:38 Comm. on Order of	3:20 Comm. on Order of	11:45 Closing Prayer
Business Report (First)	Business Report (Second)	
8:43 Appreciation of Phoenix	3:30 Election of Officers (Fourth)	Wednesday Afternoon, June 14
Volunteers	3:35 Intro. of New Motions (First)	2:30 Opening Worship
8:45 Welcome to Phoenix	3:50 Election of Officers (Fifth)	2:40 Scripture and Prayer
8:50 Honoring America	3:55 Comm. on Resolutions Report	2:45 Previously Scheduled Business
Recognition of Veterans	4:25 NAMB Presentation	2:55 Message from God's Word
Pledge of Allegiance	5:00 Closing Prayer	3:10 Presentation of Officers
National Anthem		3:20 LifeWay Report
Worship	Tuesday Evening, June 13	3:32 LifeWay Presentation
9:10 GuideStone Report	6:30 Comm. on Order of	3:27 President's Panel on Stewardship
9:22 Intro. of New Motions (First)	Business Report (Third)	4:25 Ethics & Religious Liberty
9:37 Crossover Phoenix Report	6:45 Worship	Comm. Report
9:42 Executive Comm. Report (Part 1)	7:00 Celebration Service	4:37 Ethics & Religious Liberty
10:12 Intro. of Past Presidents	8:30 IMB Presentation	Comm. Presentation
10:17 Intro. of President & Family	9:15 Closing Prayer	4:52 Closing Words
10:22 Prayer for President	Wednesday Morning, June 14	Phoenix Handoff to Dallas
10:27 Worship	8:15 Opening Worship	4:55 Closing Prayer
10:35 President's Address		

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From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

Will it, or won't it?

It was good to hear Philip Gunn, Republican speaker of the Mississippi House of Representatives and an elder at Morrison Heights Church in Clinton, say earlier this week that he does not believe the June 5 special session of the state Legislature called by Governor Phil Bryant, also a Republican, will include the lottery issue — but don't declare the battle to be over just yet.

"I think something of that magnitude... is going to require an enormous amount of study and analysis. I don't know that we have time to analyze that and digest it within the next three weeks," Gunn told a luncheon sponsored by the Capitol press corps and Mississippi State University's Stennis Institute of Government, as reported by Emily Wagster Pettus of Associated Press.

After Bryant's stinging lottery defeat in the now-adjourned 2017 regular legislative session and then his announcement of the June 5 special session, there was talk that the Governor might try to slip in a lottery measure among the necessary budget matters that must be addressed in the special session.

Perhaps unwittingly, the Governor's spokesperson Clay Chandler added fuel to that speculation when he told *Phi*, this in the same article. "The Governor will decide what — if anything — will be included beyond the agency appropriations as we get closer to June 5."

Under the provisions of the Mississippi Constitution, the Governor alone sets the agenda for a special session and that is what led to the talk.

Talk was all it was, though, before Pettus confirmed with Bryant in a prior article on May 4 that he was contemplating the addition of the lottery to the special session — but only if the Mississippi Economic Council, considered a sort of statewide chamber of commerce, supports using lottery proceeds to help pay for transportation projects around the state.

That statement deserves some serious study. First, why does the Governor, duly elected by the voters of Mississippi, need the approval of the Mississippi Economic Council to move forward with legislative issues? Does the Mississippi Economic Council have that

kind of veto power over Bryant? If so, how many other organizations hold equal sway over the Governor's decision-making process on important issues?

Secondly, Bryant is already referred to in some circles as "our gambling governor." He approved the introduction of sports fantasy gambling when other states across the nation were banning it for its corrosive effect on the well-being of people and families. Now he's intent on legalizing the lottery in Mississippi, which is no better than picking poor people's pockets to dodge honest talk about taxes.

Thirdly, as recently as October of last year Bryant told Geoff Pender, political editor of the *Clarion Ledger* newspaper in Jackson, that he liked the idea of a lottery but would not approve of depending on a lottery for funding the programs of state government.

"I would be opposed to this particular revenue being dedicated to specific expenses, such as public education. Our children's future should not be left to a game of chance," Pender quoted the governor as saying.

Well, which is it? According to Bryant's logic, the lottery is not dependable enough to fund education but wait — it's OK to depend on it for the state's transportation infrastructure. If our children's education future should not be left to a game of chance, shouldn't that be true of our transportation system? That's important to children's futures, too, isn't it?

By the way, Pender also wrote in the October article that he was "stunned" by Bryant's change of heart given that the Governor had always previously expressed opposition to a lottery. "As recently as January [2016], Gov. Phil Bryant called the idea of a lottery a 'silly notion,' and more directly said, 'I am not for it.'"

In the midst of all this smoke and mirrors remains the core group of sold-out legislators and other leaders both in and out of state government who are intent on enacting a lottery as soon as possible. Let's stay in touch with the Governor and legislators as the lottery campaign carries on — possibly as part of the June 5 special session agenda but certainly in next year's legislative session.

Democracy's Greatest Threat

The greatest threat to a democratic government is democracy itself. Democracy depends on different views, but when those differences become the justification for hostile and unlawful actions, citizens then have the power to disrupt the freedom of others and anarchy follows.

As we prepare to observe Memorial Day on Monday, I am reminded this country has been blessed beyond measure, and God showed me that blessing in an unlikely place — Viet Nam. It was a time of renewal I had not expected although God had given me a hint:

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. Romans 8:28 (NKJV)

It was also a time of introspection. I saw, for the first time, the division that others had already seen, but it was not a North/South division or a Black/White division that I saw. It was a fundamental disagreement about how we should disagree. I could understand some who disagreed with our involvement in the war, and I could even understand their disagreement with my choosing to support our country's stand. I didn't agree with everything our government chose to do, but my disagreement never rose to the point of advocating forceful suppression of opposing views. If a democracy is to function, there is no place for denigrating and suppressing those with different views. Once this happens, the threat is no longer theoretical; it is as real as a foreign enemy intent on destroying our democracy.

This came to an emotional climax for me about 20 years ago while I was attending an inspiring July 4th celebration at Bellevue Church in Memphis. At the end of the service, senior pastor Adrian Rogers began an appreciation ceremony for the veterans present. Starting with WWI and proceeding in chronological order, each group was given a well-deserved applause — but when he came to the time for Viet Nam veterans, he skipped it and moved on to Desert Storm. I was stunned, as old wounds were reopened. At the end, Rogers said, "I am sure you noted I skipped a group who served in a difficult and divided campaign in Viet Nam." He then asked all Viet Nam veterans to stand and we were given a standing ovation. With tears openly flowing down my cheeks, I felt those old wounds were being healed.



Guest opinion

with David A. Ball

I fear, however, that each successive divide our country has faced has broadened the gulf between us and fueled the destructive fire that today seems unquenchable. It is obvious that our legislative branch is not only incapable of solving the problem, but has become one of the primary sources that fuels the fire. Instead of leading our nation to a solution, those who govern personify the divide that neither party is willing to bridge.

There has been only one other time in our country's history where we have experienced such destructive feelings toward our own countrymen. At that time Abraham Lincoln offered a solution we should heed today:

With Malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds. (Second Inaugural Address — March 4, 1865)

As I watch the daily evening news knowing we have reached the limits of human resolution, I usually experience a feeling of despair. The truth is God wants us to understand we don't have the answers, but He does. He can handle the times of our greatest despair:

These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world. John 16:33 (NKJV)

This requires a process disdained in our free-spirited society — submission to the will of God — that is repugnant to those most bitterly divided! May God open our eyes to the consequences of our divided democracy.

Ball is a physician and member of First Church, Batesville.

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Southern Baptists and the birth of social gospel

NASHVILLE (BP) — Theologians of all ideological stripes agree Walter Rauschenbusch was a key figure in 20th-century Baptist history and that his 1917 book, *A Theology for the Social Gospel*, marked an important juncture in the social gospel tradition.

However, students of theology are still divided 100 years later on whether Rauschenbusch, who lived from 1861-1918, should be remembered as a friend or foe of evangelism and sound doctrine.

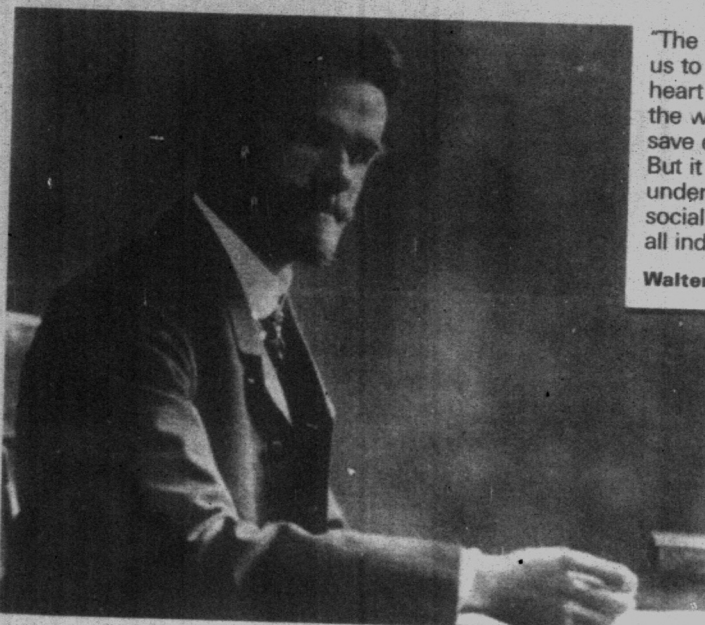
"Walter Rauschenbusch was born into a long line of pastors," said Lloyd Harsch, professor of church history and Baptist studies at New Orleans Seminary, told Baptist Press. "His father was the first to become a Baptist. While in his late 20s and early 30s, Walter served for more than a decade as pastor of Second German Baptist Church which was located in the destitute, crime-ridden area of Hell's Kitchen in New York City.

"It was in this context that Walter came to the conclusion that his evangelistic efforts needed to include concern for the social issues affecting the neighborhood. Eventually, the social concern came to dominate his ministry. Rauschenbusch reminds us that even worthy issues pursued with the best of intentions can eventually distract us, drawing us away from the important task of sharing the Gospel with those around us."

Published amid the early 20th century's social gospel movement which sought to apply Christian principles to social problems like poverty, alcoholism, and racial tensions, *A Theology for the Social Gospel* argued the "old message" of salvation must be enlarged and intensified to address social ills.

"The individualistic gospel has taught us to see the sinfulness of every human heart and has inspired us with faith in the willingness and power of God to save every soul that comes to him. But it has not given us an adequate understanding of the sinfulness of the social order and its share in the sins of all individuals within it. ...The social gospel seeks to bring men under repentance for their collective sins and to create a more sensible and more modern conscience," wrote Rauschenbusch, who left the pastorate in 1897 to teach at Rochester Theological Seminary in upstate New York.

In developing a theology to support the social gospel movement, Rauschen-



RAUSCHENBUSCH

bush critiqued historic formulations of some Christian doctrines.

He argued, for example, that the doctrine of biblical inspiration should acknowledge "the human frailty and liability to error" of the biblical authors. The idea that Jesus' death was a "substitution" and that He bore God's wrath toward sinful humans was among a collection of "post-biblical ideas" that were "alien to the spirit of the Gospel," Rauschenbusch wrote.

Still, his emphasis on the need for Christianity to address social problems led Rauschenbusch to "a national acclaim rarely accorded seminary professors," wrote Rauschenbusch biographer Paul Minus.

Neo-orthodox theologian H. Richard Niebuhr wrote in *The Kingdom of God in America* that Rauschenbusch "continued to speak the language of the prophets and St. Paul." Civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. wrote in 1960 that Rauschenbusch "left an indelible imprint on my thinking."

"The individualistic gospel has taught us to see the sinfulness of every human heart and has inspired us with faith in the willingness and power of God to save every soul that comes to him. But it has not given us an adequate understanding of the sinfulness of the social order and its share in the sins of all individuals within it."

Walter Rauschenbusch

Using the word "social," Maston said, "arouses some opposition on the part of some people to what you're trying to do."

Barnette similarly wrote in his 2004 memoir, *My Story*, that "Southern Baptists had a phobia about the term" social gospel and about Rauschenbusch, whom he called "the father of the social gospel."

That reticence about the social gospel tradition manifested itself when the Baptist General Convention of Texas established a commission in 1950 to address social issues. Convention leaders called the new entity the Christian Life Commission rather than follow the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) lead, which had named its commission charged with cultural engagement the Social Service Commission.

Texas Baptists felt a reference to the "social" gospel tradition of Rauschenbusch could undermine support for the new commission, former Texas CLC executive secretary A.C. Miller said in his 1972 oral memoir.

In 1953, the SBC Social Service Commission followed Texas Baptists' lead and changed its name to the Christian Life Commission. Four decades later, the CLC became the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

Despite the varying assessments of Rauschenbusch, church historians at SBC seminaries agree a century later that he rightly urged Christians to apply Scripture to social issues, and that his work should be remembered.

Keith Harper, senior professor of Baptist studies at Southeastern Seminary, told BP Rauschenbusch "engaged the social, cultural and economic issues of his day."

Among Southern Baptists, former Southern Seminary ethics professor Henlee Barnette classified Rauschenbusch in a 1968 sermon as among the "three great prophets" America had produced. The other two, Barnette said, were King and Abraham Lincoln.

Yet Rauschenbusch also drew criticism. In the mid-20th century, neo-orthodox theologians like Niebuhr "declared his optimism excessive and certain doctrines deficient," Minus wrote.

King was among those who agreed with that critique.

Southern Baptists who admired Rauschenbusch knew mentioning him in some settings could alienate theologically-conservative believers. Southwestern Seminary ethics professor T.B. Maston, a noted civil rights advocate who was influenced by Rauschenbusch, said in his 1973 oral memoirs that he counseled seminary students to avoid referencing the social gospel in Southern Baptist churches.

McRaney lawsuit against NAMB moves to fed court

ABERDEEN, Miss. (BP and local reports) — The North American Mission Board (NAMB) has filed an official response to a lawsuit filed in Mississippi by former Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware (BCMD) executive director Will McRaney, a Mississippi native.

McRaney alleges NAMB wrongly interfered with his separation from BCMD in 2015, engaged in "slander and/or libel," and attempted to interfere with his speaking engagements.

NAMB's May 18 filing with the U.S. District Court for the

Northern District of Mississippi in Aberdeen acknowledged notifying BCMD in late 2014 of its intent to terminate an evangelism and church planting partnership with the convention, alleging the BCMD "became a dysfunctional and difficult ministry partner" during McRaney's tenure.

However, NAMB denied interfering with McRaney's employment situation or any of his other business dealings and asked for dismissal of the suit.

The lawsuit was originally filed by McRaney in Win-

ston County where he alleges one of his speaking engagements was scuttled, but it was moved to federal court at NAMB's request. According to NAMB's Notice of Removal, federal law permits NAMB to have the case removed from state court because the plaintiff and defendant are residents of different states and the amount of money at issue exceeds \$75,000.

NAMB told Baptist Press in a statement that McRaney rejected or ignored several offers to meet and "discuss these matters

biblically," and that NAMB will "defend the case vigorously."

NAMB's response to the lawsuit claimed McRaney "caused the BCMD to violate the terms of the Strategic Partnership Agreement [for evangelism and church planting] and otherwise hindered and interfered with BCMD's performance of its obligations."

According to the response, "NAMB was entitled" to notify the BCMD it would terminate the partnership "given the facts and circumstances as they existed at the time."

Contrary to McRaney's allegation he was terminated from the BCMD, the response stated, "NAMB is informed and believes that [McRaney] voluntarily resigned his employment pursuant to some kind of severance agreement."

NAMB has also argued if the lawsuit proceeds, it should be transferred from the federal court in Mississippi to the U.S. district court in northern Georgia where NAMB's corporate office is located.

The anticipated next step in the case likely will be a series of motions and responses.

Are you sitting down? Some of you may be sitting because you just went to the mailbox and got your Baptist Record and you came in and you're sitting down to read it. That's wonderful, except the most recent studies are showing that sitting is the new smoking. It has taken years to point out the fact that smoking is harmful to your heart, your lungs, your life, and brings about premature death. Sitting, on the other hand, has now replaced smoking as one of the great detrimental things to our wellbeing. Our sedentary lifestyle is doing us in. It is a killer. I do know that some people cannot stand or walk, but the majority of us who can walk or even run or maneuver, sit more than we should and are not as active as we need to be.

It is amazing how we sit to travel, to study, to work, to worship; we have even learned how to sit to play golf. Driving around from one hole to another is another great exercise, we think. We, for the most part, are sitting our way to the grave. One study does not prove everything, but one study ventured to say that sitting is more harmful than smoking. It does kill more people than HIV and is more treacherous they say than skydiving, but here we go day after day. We sit in our cars and drive to work only to arrive to get out and go and sit at a desk most of the day only to get off of work and get back in the car and sit while we drive home so that we can get to the couch.



Sitting Is the New Smoking

Sitting is a major contributor to cancer, heart disease, type 2 diabetes. It is hurting more people than we could ever imagine. What is a fact is that standing is better than sitting and walking is better than standing and getting started to doing something, anything, is the hardest part of all. I am not just fussing about us sitting too much and physically being harmed by it, but more interesting to me is that we have done the same thing to our spiritual wellbeing. We sit and that is not the ultimate in the walk with Jesus. We sit to listen and learn. We sit to pray and sing. We sit at times to visit.

A man was telling me recently how on Saturday afternoon he sits down at his computer and emails all of his Sunday school class and encourages them to be there the next day. In Hebrews 12:1-2 the writer is saying to folks of his day that they need to get up and get with it. Now I'm fairly confident the folks in the first century did not lack in the walking department because everywhere they went and everything they did involved walking several miles a day and they didn't even have one of the little fit bands to show them how many steps they took.

In Hebrews 12:1, he says, "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us." Now, you might not be able to run. Maybe you can walk. You may not be able to just stand, but you can make progress in your walk with Jesus.

I honestly don't believe that most folks are lazy, either physically or spiritually, but we get used to finding the shortcut, the easy way, the less taxing, less robust way and eventually we find ourselves not making as much progress, not moving as much, and not as strong and energetic as we used to be in every realm. So what are we to do?

One - we need to remember that our muscles, whether we are talking physical or spiritual, mental or emotional, are only made stronger by some degree of exercise. If you don't use it, you lose it.

Two - make a commitment to start getting up if you can, getting out if you can, getting on if you can and letting God use you and strengthen you.

Three - keep your eyes on Jesus. He is the one who said, "Follow me." And if you watch Him and will walk after Him, you will find that you are sitting less and serving more. May God richly bless you.

The author can be contacted at directions@mbcb.org.

Staff Changes



MT. GILEAD CHURCH, MERIDIAN, has called Marcus Finch as pastor. He is shown with his wife, Martha.



Pastor Don Wilson retired from **SPRINGFIELD CHURCH, MORTON**, April 30. He served 51 years in Louisiana, Nevada, California, and Mississippi. The church honored Wilson and his wife Nell with a lunch one Sunday and an ice cream supper the next.

Revivals & Homecomings

► **Concord Church, Smithdale**: Homecoming, May 28; service, 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the ground and 1:15 p.m.; Tony Mullins, speaker; Mid South Singers, music.

► **Calvary Church, Carroll County**: Homecoming, May 28; singing, 10:30 a.m., followed by service and dinner

on the pavilion; Terry Corley, speaker; Wesley Davis, music; Bud Vance, pastor.

► **Arlington Church, Bogue Chitto**: 125th homecoming, May 28; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; services, 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch; Pat Lofton and Kent Campbell, speakers; Doug Moak, music.

Clarification

In the issue of May 18, the transition from the lead article on page one to the remainder of the article on page six inadvertently resulted in the article being prematurely ended due to a lack of space. Below are the final three paragraphs that were cut off. The Baptist Record apologizes for the error.

The Archdiocese of Kansas City is severing ties with Girl Scouts USA (GSUSA). Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann said in a May 1 statement, describing GSUSA as no longer a compatible partner. Instead, the archdiocese will work with American Heritage Girls, a mentoring group based on Christian values.

"With the promotion by Girl Scouts USA (GSUSA) of programs and materials reflective of many of the troubling trends in our secular culture," Naumann said, the Girl Scouts no longer is "a compatible partner in helping us form young women with the virtues and values of the Gospel."

Naumann said GSUSA accepts transgender girls on a case-by-case basis and supports birth control and abortion by donating funds to the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGS), an organization tied to International Planned Parenthood.

GSUSA, in a statement on its website, denies any partnership or association with Planned Parenthood.

BIBLIOPHER

NDT QWT EWWUCT MFWD HAC CNGHA,

NDT, PCAWET, SH ONL RWGGMFH;

BWG NEE BECLA ANT RWGGMFHCT ASL

ONZ MFWD HAC CNGHA.

QCDCLSL LSJ: HOCEIC

Clue: G = R

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Hosea 7:2

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New BSU leaders chosen by exec. comm.

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

Andrew R. Kappenman was selected May 15 by the executive committee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) to serve as the new Baptist Student Union (BSU) director at Delta State University in Cleveland.

The executive committee also tapped Joshua H. "Josh" Warren to be the new BSU director at Mississippi Delta Community College in Moorhead.

"Andrew has a desire to disciple and mobilize college students through Mississippi BSU. His experience as a student in missions and outreach will be a great asset in helping reach and mobilize the students of the Mississippi Delta," Lloyd Lunceford, MBCB director of

collegiate ministry, told the executive committee.

"Having grown up in Charleston, Mississippi, Andrew is keenly aware of the challenges that we face in the Delta, and in my discussions with him has expressed a genuine desire to make a difference in our work there," Lunceford said.

"Josh's service in missions and his heart to reach and disciple students will be a great asset. Having the experience as a student at Delta State makes Josh fully aware of the challenges we face in the Delta," Lunceford told the executive committee. "His desire to make a difference in and the excitement he has expressed will serve us well as we look to impact this part of the state."

Kappenman, age 30, holds a master of divinity degree ('14) from Mid-America Sem-



KAPPENMAN WARREN

inary in Cordova, Tn., and a bachelor of science in sport coaching education ('09) from the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg. He also attended Mississippi State University in Starkville and Northwest Mississippi Community College in Senatobia.

He was licensed by Mt. Pisgah Church in Enid in March 2008, and ordained in December 2014 by Logview Heights Church in Olive Branch, where he has been serving as college pastor

since 2013. Other places of service include:

■ Northwest Mississippi Community College, as an intern from 2009-2015.

■ First Church, Nesbit, as recreation minister from 2009-2013.

■ First Church Glendale in Hattiesburg, as youth minister from February-December 2008.

Kappenman and Megan, his wife of nine years, have three children: daughter Peyton, age five, and sons Silas, age three, and Titus, age one.

Warren, 27, is currently enrolled at New Orleans Seminary in the master of divinity (standard) program. He holds a bachelor of science in social science/sociology ('12) from Delta State University and attended Northwest Community College.

He was licensed at Drew Church, Drew, in April 2012,

and ordained at First Church, Senatobia, in May 2012. Other places of service include:

■ Gulf Coast Association in Gulfport and interim at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College in Perkinston from January-May 2016.

■ Louisiana Baptist Convention in Alexandria, as collegiate ministries intern from 2013-2015.

■ Youth minister at Drew Church, from 2011-2012.

■ Summer missionary in 2010 for the International Mission Board in Richmond, Va.

■ Summer missionary in 2009 for North American Mission Board in Alpharetta, Ga.

Warren and his wife of four years, Amber Grace, have one child, Andrew Heath Warren, age one, and they are expecting their second child in July.

Kappenman and Warren will begin their new duties on June 1. Both positions are full time.

Women's Advisory Council report being drafted

ATLANTA (BP) — The Women's Advisory Council began formulating recommendations during its third and final meeting to present to Frank S. Page, president of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Executive Committee in Nashville.

Appointed by Page in January 2016, the council has sought to gather and share information about perspectives and strategies for women in Southern Baptist churches to help reach the U.S. and the world with the Gospel.

Page asked council members to suggest ways to increase the involvement of women in biblically-appropriate ways at all levels of Southern Baptist life, identifying and providing support structures to maximize women's service through their churches as well as in leadership on state and national boards and committees.

Council chairwoman Rhonda Kelley, adjunct professor of women's ministry at New Orleans Seminary, facilitated the March 30-31 meeting in Atlanta during which the council also reviewed findings from a survey it conducted in 2016 and received reports from work teams.

Kelley, wife of New Orleans Seminary president Chuck Kelley, distributed an 80-page draft report to council members at the meeting that contains findings of 16 topics related to ministry to women compiled by council members, along with an analysis of a 20-question online survey.

According to the draft report, more than 3,600 women living in all 50 states responded to the survey. Those under age 35 comprised the largest group at 26% of respondents.

About 21% each were between ages 35-44; 45-54; and 55-64, while 11% of respondents were 65 or older.

The council sought to increase survey participation from younger women by submitting the survey to collegiate ministers for distribution and to increase the response rate of older women by distributing print copies to senior adult groups.

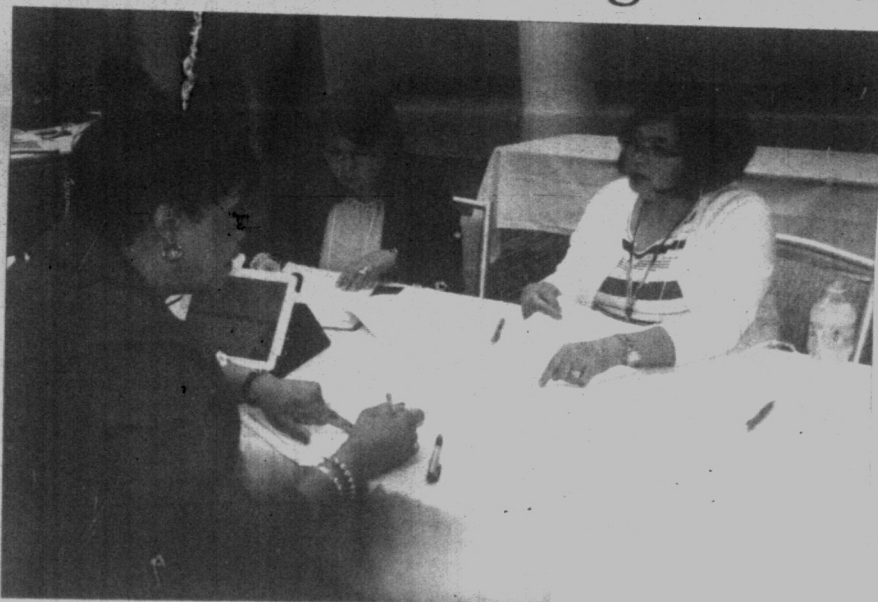
Among the trends in Southern Baptist churches' ministry to women revealed in the survey are:

■ While more than 81% of churches have organized ministry specifically for women, only 9.4% have a full-time church staff position for women's ministry.

■ Nearly 35% of the survey's respondents serve in a lay leadership role in some type of ministry to women, ranging from Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) to women's ministry Bible study or prayer groups, while 3.7% serve in a paid full- or part-time role in ministry to women.

■ One-fourth of respondents have received specific leadership training for work with women through various leadership conferences, LifeWay Women's Leadership Forums, and/or WMU.

■ Nearly 83% of women said their churches offer Bible studies specifically for wom-



READYING REPORT — Women's Advisory Council members (left to right) Jackie Anderson, Ana Melendez, and Myra Sermon review five of the sixteen research reports submitted by advisory council members during the council's March 30-31 meeting in Atlanta. The reports will be blended into a final report to be presented to Frank S. Page, president of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee in Nashville, prior to the convention's annual meeting July 13-14 in Phoenix. (BP photo)

en and 81% said their church hosts special events specifically for women.

■ Twenty-nine percent of women responding to the survey said their church provides evangelism or discipleship training specifically for women.

The Women's Advisory Council is composed of 18

women from 14 states and represents different age groups, stages of life, ethnic backgrounds and ministry positions. Mississippi Baptists are not represented on the council.

Its final report will contain specific recommendations to address four questions that

surfaced during the council's initial meeting in January 2016.

The council will present its final report to Page on June 12, just prior to the SBC annual meeting in Phoenix July 13-14, at the Many Faces of the SBC booth in the exhibit hall.

College News



WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY inducted 42 students into the Mississippi Beta chapter of Alpha Chi National College Honor Society on April 19. Membership into Alpha Chi is limited to no more than 10 percent of the junior, senior, and graduate class members. Carey students must have at least a 3.70 grade point average on the 4.0 scale to qualify for membership.



The **MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE** softball team won the school's first-ever Gulf South Conference softball championship with an 18-5 victory over Alabama Huntsville May 7 at Charger Park. The Lady Choctaws (34-18) opened the day with an 8-5 come-from-behind victory over West Florida to advance to the title game. Sophomore Kristen Qualls was named the tournament's Most Outstanding Player, joining seniors Megan Everett and Haley Thompson, sophomore Adrianna Morgan and freshman Carly Crawford on the All-Tournament Team.



WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY recently inducted 11 students into the Alpha Gamma Gamma chapter of Sigma Tau Delta English honor society. The inductees are Raechel Abney of Diamondhead, Ticochie Groves of Magee, Sara Jolley of Hattiesburg, Abby Magee of Columbia, Cody Patrick of Laurel, Joshua Caleb Pitts of Ellisville, Ian Pittman of Columbia, McKenzie Rigney of Picayune, Olivia Russell of McComb, Liberty Sites of Crestview, Florida, and Kayla Wagner of Leakesville. Admission to the chapter is open to undergraduate and graduate students with an overall "B" average in English courses and ranking in the highest 35 percent of the student's class in general scholarship.

Parker Battista, **MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE**, recently won a gold medal as Americas No. 1 male bow hunter at the United States Intercollegiate Collegiate Archery Championships in Yenikon, S. Dakota, May 11-14. A resident of Tallmadge, Ohio, Battista edged a University of the Cumberlands rival to get the gold medal.

In other College News:

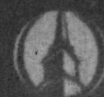
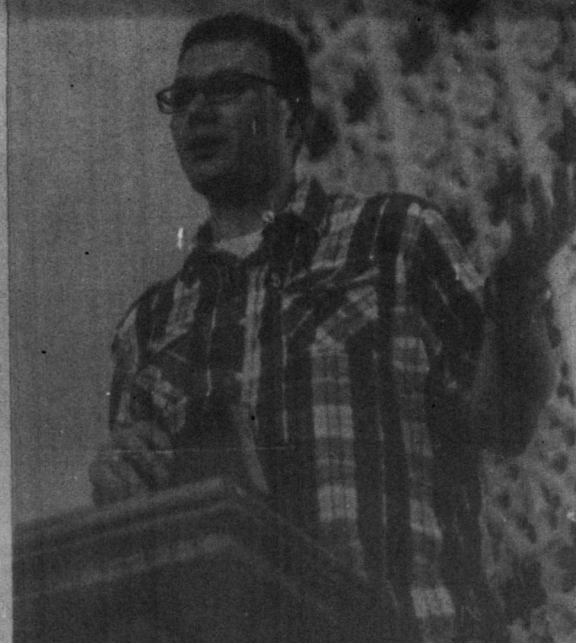
► SR Education Group has ranked **William Carey University** as having the #1 most affordable online master's in criminal justice program. The Master of Science in Criminal Justice began its inaugural class in spring 2016 with eight master's candidates. The fully online program is taught by full-time and adjunct faculty members who are qualified practitioners in the field of criminal justice. In order to be admitted to the program, students must have earned a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university and maintained a minimum of 2.5 GPA during their last 64 hours. The students must also submit competitive GRE scores and letters of recommendation to compete the admission process.

► Leaders of the world's premier business education accreditation group gave a prestigious international honor to **Mississippi College**. The MC School of Business earned an international accreditation from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business International. Founded in 1916, the Tampa-based organization has awarded accreditation status to 789 institutions spanning 53 countries and territories. MC joins the Southern Taiwan University of Science & Technology and the University of Central Oklahoma as the three institutions gaining the status on May 3. It was awarded to the Johns Hopkins Carey Business School and the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Business School in February.



On April 28, **WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY** held a dedication ceremony for the new Ben Waddle Sports Facility and the WCU track. The new sports facility was named in honor of Benjamin Waddle, who began his career at William Carey College in 1967 as the health and physical education department chair. He also served as athletic director from 1975-1983. Waddle continues to teach in the health, physical education and recreation department. The 13,299-square-foot facility will serve as home court for the new volleyball team, which played its first season in 2016. The JV basketball team, Carey band, and intramural sports also will use the building. Waddle is seen in the center of the back row.

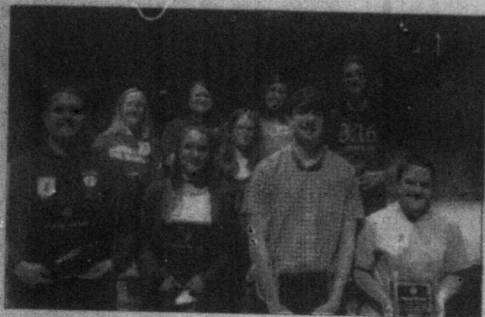
WHERE WILL GOD'S CALL TAKE YOU?



NEW ORLEANS

BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

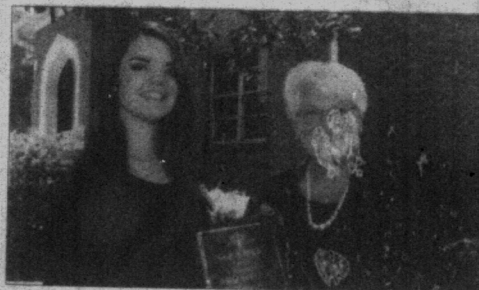
Bible Drill



The 2017 Bible Drill Selection Tournament was held at Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, on April 29. **NINE YEAR SCHOLARSHIP:** First Place: Alex Janes, North Ripley Church, Benton-Tippah; Second Place: Bethany Langley, Prentiss Church, Covington-Jefferson Davis; Third Place: Brandon Evans, First Church Brandon, Rankin; Fourth Place: Reanna Ivey, New Heights Church, Pike. **HIGH SCHOOL SELECTION TOURNAMENT (GRADES 10-12):** First Place [\$500]: Michael Bariks, Center Church, Attala; Second Place [\$300]: Chelsie Warriner - Cleary BC, Rankin; Third Place [\$200]: Bethany Langley, Prentiss Church, Covington-Jefferson Davis. **MIDDLE SCHOOL SELECTION TOURNAMENT (GRADES 6-9):** First Place: Desiree Roby, Morrison Heights Church, Metro; Second Place: Jake Ables, Pinelake Church, Rankin; Third Place: Isabelle Li, CCCGJ, Metro.



BETHEL CHURCH, BOGUE CHITTO recognized four Bible drill participants. Pictured, back row, is pastor Matthew Gazaway and Bible drill director Deborah Moak; front row, Warren Wallace and Austin Moak.



Janie Winscott received a plaque for 36 years of service to the Bible Drill program of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. The plaque was presented by Anne Eliese Langley, who was a 2015 Nine-Year scholarship recipient.



BEULAH CHURCH, DECATUR, presented Bible Drill Trophies to the following: Front row: Garrett Estes, Annley Howell, Jacob Howell, and youth leader Suzanne Gressett; second row: Mary Ann Kelly, Bible Buddies Leader, Barbara J. Harrison, children's leader, Nathan Kelly and Grant Estes.

Just for the Record



TERRY'S CREEK CHURCH, MAGNOLIA, held a baby dedication May 14. Pastor LaVerne Summerlin led the service for Faith Hope, daughter of T.J. and Betsy Williams, left, and Piper Nowell, daughter of Dustin and Jennifer Sinclair, right.



TWIN LAKES CHURCH, MADISON, ordained B.J. Ingle recently. Shown are Rebecca Ingle, Chase Ingle, and pastor Hugh Smith.



Philip Carlson was licensed to the ministry of the gospel at **BRANDON CHURCH, BRANDON**. He is shown with his wife Rebecca, children Lennell and Carrie Anne, and pastor Clarence Cooper, right.



NOXAPATER CHURCH, WINSTON ASSOCIATION, held a baby dedication led by Mike Fondren May 15, with eight families participating.

FIRST CHURCH, QUITMAN, held a parent/child dedication service Mother's Day with five families participating. Gene Neal, pastor.



Third-gender designation debated in France

PARIS (BP) — France's highest court has rejected the notion of a "neutral" gender.

The ruling upheld a lower court's decision denying a French citizen with a sex development disorder the right to use "neutral" as an official gender.

The Cour de Cassation, France's supreme court, ruled that the distinction between male and female was "necessary to the social and legal organization, of which it is a cornerstone," and that the recognition of a neutral gender would have "profound repercussions on rules of French law" and necessitate legislative changes, according to Agence France-Presse.

The plaintiff, a 65-year-old psychotherapist from eastern France known by the pseudonym Gaetan Schmitt, was assigned male at birth despite having intersex genitalia. Schmitt is married to a woman and has an adopted child but claims to be neither male nor female.

In 2015, a family affairs judge in Tours ruled in Schmitt's favor, but an appeals court overturned the ruling last year.

Schmitt's attorney, Bertrand Périot, called the high court ruling a "missed opportunity," in



an interview with The New York Times. "I don't see why France's social or legal organization would necessitate gender binarism."

Périot said Schmitt was raised as a boy because his mother wanted a son.

"Gaetan is neither a man nor a woman. They do not feel like a man or woman. They cannot become a man or woman. And they do not want to become a man or woman," Périot said, referring to Schmitt with a plural pronoun.

Only a few countries, including Australia, Nepal, India, and New Zealand, have a legal third gender.

Other countries allow parents to delay declaring a gender for babies born with a sex development disorder, but only for a limited time.

Schmitt plans to take the case to the European Court of Human Rights, but even if that court reversed last week's ruling and affirmed the family affairs judge's declaration that Schmitt should have a right to use a "neutral" gender because of a sex development disorder, the ruling would still link gender to biology.

Some activists say that is unacceptable and are pushing for laws like New Zealand's, which allow

transgender and cross-dressing people, in addition to those with intersex genitalia, to also use a third category — "gender diverse" — as their legal gender, but gender is inherently biological, according to a scientific study released earlier this year that found more than 1,500 sex-specific genes throughout the body.

The study by Moran Gershoni and Shmuel Pietrokovski at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot, Israel, was looking for an explanation for the prevalence of certain diseases in men and women. They found many genes are expressed — or copied out to make proteins — differently in men and women in many more ways than previously imagined.

"Overall, sex-specific genes are mainly expressed in the reproductive system, emphasizing the notable physiological distinction between men and women," the report, published in BMC Biology, said. "However, scores of genes that are not known to directly associate with reproduction were also found to have sex-specific expression (e.g., the men-specific skin genes)."

In addition to 1,559 sex-specific genes, Gershoni and Pietrokovski found more than 6,500 genes with

significant sex-differential expression. These sex-linked genes were found not only in reproductive organs and the mammary (milk-producing) tissue but also the skin, skeleton, heart, brain, lungs, and stomach, among other areas.

For example, they found genes that were highly expressed in the skin of men related to the growth of body hair and genes highly expressed in women related to fat storage. They also found a gene mainly expressed in the brain of women that scientists think might protect the female neurons from Parkinson's, a disease with a higher prevalence and earlier onset in men, and a gene expressed in the liver of women regulating drug metabolism, providing molecular evidence for the known fact that men and women process drugs differently.

The study said more research is needed to understand how the differences between men and women cause disease and change the way each sex responds to treatment.

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Submission Guidelines

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperation with churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published.

Preferred method: news may be submitted electronically to the e-mail address below, and must be included in the message segment of an e-mail form. Secondary method: news may be typewritten or neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper and mailed. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone. Due to ever-present virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments in JPEG format are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs must be submitted electronically via e-mail, as attachments in JPEG format. **Hard copy photographs mailed through the postal service will not be accepted.** Photographs must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. Photographs containing inappropriate gestures and objectionable clothing will not be published. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items that do not reproduce well on newspaper are generally not publishable.

There is no guarantee that news items and/or photographs will be published, and unsolicited material will not be acknowledged or returned. All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date. Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. These guidelines are not meant to be exhaustive.

Submit news to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX (601) 292-3390. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org

Gallup poll sounds warning for a declining U.S. culture

NASHVILLE (BP) — A Gallup poll indicating Americans are more left-leaning than ever on 10 of 19 moral issues has been called "humbling" and "chastening" by a Southern Baptist Convention seminary president.

A Fordham University ethicist criticized the poll as "deeply misleading" for suggesting moral permissiveness is limited to liberals.

In its annual Values and Beliefs survey, the Gallup polling organization found record percentages of U.S. adults believe it is morally acceptable to use birth control (91%), get divorced (73%), engage in opposite-sex sexual acts outside marriage (69%), engage in same-sex sexual acts (63%), have a baby outside of marriage (62%), commit physician-assisted suicide (57%), view pornography (36%), and practice polygamy (17%).

The only two practices to register record low moral approval were capital punishment (58%) and medical testing on animals (51%).

Southern Seminary President R. Albert Mohler Jr. called it a "humbling, indeed chastening reality that on none of these moral issues has there been long-term change in a more conservative direction ever since the dawn of the 21st century."

That reality "is also very clarifying in terms of understanding what

we're now up against" in the secularized culture, Mohler said May 16 in his podcast, The Briefing.

Since the inception of the Values and Beliefs poll in 2001, researchers have noted "meaningful change in a liberal direction" on 13 of the 19 issues from this year's survey, according to a May 11 Gallup news release. Gallup added that "no issues show meaningful change toward more traditionally conservative positions."

Approval of same sex activities has seen the greatest jump in approval, increasing 23 percentage points over the years to its current approval rating. The second greatest approval increase has occurred for having a baby outside marriage — a 17 percentage point jump.

Sex between an unmarried man and woman has seen a 16 percentage point increase in approval and divorce a 14 percentage point increase.

The 43% approval of abortion is virtually unchanged since 2001, as are nine percent approval of extramarital affairs and 65% approval of gambling.

Mohler said the data evidences "the loss of the binding authority of biblical Christianity where it had once bound the consciences not only of individuals but of the general society, especially on issues such as the definition of marriage and the understanding of

gender and, of course, the regulation of sexual practices."

Seven of the eight practices to register record-tying or record-setting approval this year are condemned in the Baptist Faith and Message, either directly or by implication. Birth control is the only one not mentioned, though the BF&M calls children "a blessing and heritage from the Lord."

A May 15 op-ed by Fordham ethicist Charles Camosy published by the Catholic news agency Crux criticized Gallup's release for "radically simplifying a complex nexus of beliefs and values."

Gallup's "slapping moral positions with [the label] liberal or conservative is problematic," he wrote.

Some liberal feminists, Camosy claimed, oppose pornography while research suggests conservatives may consume more porn than liberals. Similarly, some traditionally liberal states like Massachusetts, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Maryland have rejected physician-assisted suicide while some conservative libertarian states in the west have legalized it, he wrote.

On a positive note, Camosy said it is "remarkable" that a majority of Americans opposes abortion and "extraordinary" that a majority opposes pornography despite cultural pressure to affirm both.

Gaines announces 21 days of prayer, fasting

PHOENIX (BP) — Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) President Steve Gaines has called Southern Baptists to 21 days of prayer and fasting leading up to the SBC annual meeting in Phoenix on June 13-14.

The fast will begin May 23 and end the day preceding the annual meeting.



GAINES

Christian life."

Gaines announced May 18 in a written call to prayer. He defined fasting as "doing without something in order to focus more attention on the Lord Jesus and His Kingdom," adding that "prayer and fasting are essentials in the

Gaines, pastor of Memphis-area Bellevue Church in Cordova, urged all Southern Baptists to participate in the fast. Some may feel called to "go without food for 21 days and just drink liquids," he wrote. Others may opt to "eat less than normal and drink only water," skip one meal per day for 21 days, or fast from a technology like television.

"While no one knows exactly how or why God uses our prayers and fasting, no one who believes the Bible can doubt that He does," Gaines wrote. "...God does things when we pray and fast that He does not do if we don't pray and fast."

Among the prayer requests Gaines asked Southern Baptists to emphasize are:

■ "an outpouring of God's manifest presence" in Phoenix.

■ "the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

■ the salvation of many souls at the June 11 Harvest America crusade with evangelist Greg Laurie.

■ divine blessing for the June 11-12 SBC Pastors' Conference and the SBC annual meeting.

Vacation Bible School

► **New Henleyfield Southern Church, Carriere:** June 5 – 9, 8:30 a.m. – 11 a.m.

► **Ethel Church, Ethel:** June 12 – 16, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

MS POSITIONS

ASHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH, IN ASHLAND, MS, IS SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL WORSHIP LEADER FOR SUNDAY SERVICES AND WEEKLY CHOIR PRACTICE. EMAIL CONTACT INFORMATION TO Ashlandbaptistchurch@yahoo.com OR CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE: 662-224-6473.

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INTERSTATE BAPTIST CHURCH IN SHAW MS IS LOOKING FOR A WORSHIP LEADER/CHOIR DIRECTOR. Please send resumes to 1206 Avery St. Cleveland, MS 38732 or email to firemanfd124@gmail.com

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CHURCH 15-PASSENGER BUS FOR SALE: 2006 Eldorado Aerotech (Ford 5-350 XLT), Mileage 56,485. Bids accepted through June 30; email desotobaptistchurch13@gmail.com or U.S. Mail to DeSoto Baptist Church, 62 Jasper Street, Shubuta, MS 39360, or call 601-776-6050 for more information. DeSoto Baptist Church reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

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OBITUARY

Grady C. Cothen, 96, pastor and influential denominational leader for much of the last half of the twentieth century, passed away on May 19 at The Orchard retirement home in Ridgeland. Born in Poplarville on Aug. 2, 1920, into the family of "country preacher" Joseph Cothen and Mamie Coulter Cothen, he graduated from Hattiesburg High School in Hattiesburg; Mississippi College in Clinton; and New Orleans Seminary. He was ordained into the Gospel ministry in 1939 by Richton Church, Richton. Following service as a U.S. Navy chaplain in the Pacific during the last year of World War II,



COTHEN

Cothen was pastor of churches in Tennessee, Oklahoma, and Alabama. He was executive secretary-treasurer of the Southern Baptist General Convention of California (now the California Southern Baptist Convention) in Fresno from 1961-66, and president of Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee from 1966-70. He was selected as president of New Orleans Seminary in 1970. In February 1975, Cothen was inaugurated as the

sixth executive of the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention (now LifeWay Christian Resources) in Nashville, where he served until his retirement in 1984. The author of five books, Cothen preached his final sermon in December 2012, at the retirement home where he lived. Recognitions during his career included Distinguished Alumnus Award at New Orleans Seminary; Order of the Golden Arrow at Mississippi College; E.Y. Mullins Denominational Service Award from Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky.; Who's Who in America from 1970 to retirement. His wife

of 63 years, the former Martha E. (Bettye) Major, passed away in 2005. He is survived by his wife Mary Colmer Cothen; his brother Joe H. Cothen of Jackson; daughters Carole Shields Westbrook (Hugh) of Miami, and Mary Thompson (Kenneth) of Schertz, Texas; and son Grady Jr. (Lelia Routh) of Cheverly, Md. A memorial service was held at The Orchard on May 20, with interment at Roseberry Cemetery in Mascot, Tn.

SBC

cont. from p. 1

Townes told BP he anticipates an attendance of between 5,000-6,000 messengers this year in Phoenix. If that occurs, attendance will easily exceed the 4,852 messengers who registered the last time the annual meeting was held in Phoenix in 2011.

Messengers are individual members of churches in friendly cooperation with the Southern Baptist Convention who are appointed by their churches to represent them by voting at the annual meeting. Messengers have no other official duties, and are appointed or reappointed on an annual basis.

Townes also estimated 2,500-3,500 guests, exhibitors, and other participants will attend.

The official count from last year's annual meeting in St. Louis was 7,321 messengers. A total of 5,407 messengers attended the 2015 annual meeting in Columbus, Oh., topping the 2014 Baltimore, Md., annual meeting count of 5,298.

Since 2012, messenger registration has fluctuated between 5,103 and 7,874.

Editor's note: Baptist Press contributed to this article.

Truth is not relative.

Find it in the One who is the way, truth, and life.

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life.

From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

THE VILLAGE VIEW



Sean A. Milner, Executive Director
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Clinton, MS 39060-0027
(601) 922-2242
www.baptistchildrensvillage.com

GIFTS OF HONOR AND MEMORY

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to be a honor, with taste and respect. Those who are and have been special to our special people.

APRIL

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Mr. & Mrs. David Cotton Foster
Ms. Leney Ford
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Ms. Allison Foster
Mr. & Mrs. David Cotton Foster
Mr. & Mrs. M. E. Gingrich
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Ms. Gabrielle Hulin
Mr. & Mrs. David Cotton Foster
Mrs. Laverne Hyer
Mr. & Mrs. John M. Read
Ms. Martha Ann Klaus
Ms. Camille W. Atwood
Dr. John Matthews and family
Dr. & Mrs. Jim Brewer
Mr. & Mrs. David Riley
Mr. & Mrs. Lamar Gordon
Ms. Sue M. Smith
Mrs. Catherine S. McNiece

APRIL

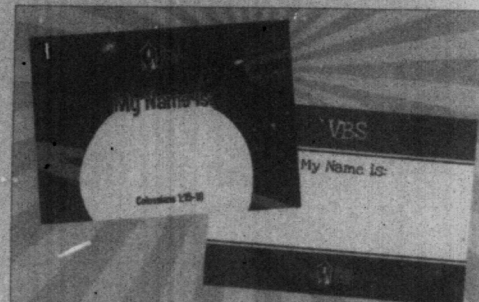
MEMORIALS

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Mr. Grover Allen
Emice SSC, Hurley BC
Mr. Ben Anders
Mr. & Mrs. Mickey Cumberland
Bryan Allen Anders
Shawn & Bob Wilkerson

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Ms. Luna Merle Barnett
Mens 2 SSC, Whitesand BC
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Branch BC
Jordan C. Bates
Ms. Jan Rasche
Carol L. Berry
Mr. & Mrs. Brooks H. Polk, Jr.
Mr. Ralph Berryhill
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Wilson
Mr. John Black
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis A. Buchanan
Mr. Norman Blount
Mr. Gregory T. Jackson
Mrs. Bethany Boone
Mr. & Mrs. Roy F. Moore
Ms. Myra Lee Boone
Mr. & Mrs. David A. Reed
Eva Nell Brister
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Tillman
Mrs. Aubrey Helen Brown
Mrs. Ernestine M. Lindsley
Mrs. Kent F. McFarland and
Mr. & Mrs. Ernie McFarland
Mrs. Helen Brown
Mrs. Irene K. Smith
Woodland Dr Friends & Neighbors
Mr. Rex Brown
Dr. & Mrs. James H. May
Mr. Joe Brumfield

Stanton BC
Rev. Gerald Buckley
Mr. & Mrs. Gary P. Hollimon
Mr. Edward A. Buckner III
Mr. & Mrs. Andy Oakes
Mr. Richard A. Caraway
Ms. Carole U. Byram
Ms. Shirley Carpenter
Mrs. Frances Carpenter
Mr. Dick Christopher
Mr. & Mrs. Richard N. Humphreys
Ms. Kathryn Clawson
Mr. & Mrs. Lamont Jarrrell
Mr. George Cobb
Mr. & Mrs. Byron Dean
Dr. R. E. Coghlan
Kelly-Long SSC, FBC Aberdeen
Mr. Harry L. Cole
Mrs. Harry L. Cole
Mrs. Miriam Cooper
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis A. Buchanan
Ms. Sherrill Corban
Siloam BC
Terry Cox
Heaven Bound Adult 5 Class,
Crossway Church
Mrs. Ruth Crawford
Kelly-Long SSC, FBC Aberdeen
Mr. Wade Stinson
Ms. Ardella Crimm
Mr. & Mrs. Byron (Nell) Dean
Mrs. Tracy Davis
Buddy Russell's SSC, Arlington BC
Mr. Jennings Dixon
Mr. & Mrs. Krandal Howell
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy W. Hardy
Ms. Kay G. Rayborn
Mr. Dennis Dobbs
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Mr. & Mrs. Paul D. Albritton
Mrs. Wilda L. Butler
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Jay & Donna Ackman
Mr. & Mrs. Fred L. Ruth
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Mr. Gene Fitts
Ms. Barbara Curlee
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John & Mary Ann Epting
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Mr. Jack Gubann
Mr. & Mrs. Chris Federick
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Mr. Noel T. Gann
Mrs. Iris Graves
Mr. Kay G. Rayborn
Mr. Floyd Marley Grice
Buddy Russell's SSC, Arlington BC
Mr. & Mrs. Lester Hall
Mrs. Carolyn Satterfield
Ms. Jeanette Hanson
Mrs. Jenn S. Moss
Mr. Syble Helms
Ms. Jeanette D. Kirby
Mrs. Elaine Herring
Mr. W. B. Herring
Mr. G. W. Herrington
Mr. & Mrs. Troy L. King
Mrs. Audra Hogue
Mrs. Ernestine M. Lindsley
Ms. Virginia Singletary Hubert
Dr. & Mrs. M. Lewis Grubbs
Mr. Randy Ingram
Springfield BC
Mr. William Ingram
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Pilgrim
Sterling Ivory Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Andy Oakes
Mr. Leroy Johnsey
Dr. & Mrs. M. Lewis Grubbs
Ms. Stephanie Kent
Mr. & Mrs. Ray Wise
Ms. Susan Julia Kraft
Mr. & Mrs. Ronnie E. McNair
Mr. Jeremy Lamb
Mrs. Susan S. Dawson
Ms. Betty Landrum
Mr. & Mrs. Ronnie E. McNair
Mr. Haywood Langdon Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Potter
Mr. Leonard Lee
Mr. & Mrs. Billy G. Hastings
Mrs. Gracie Lehmann
Ms. Ann Smith
Pallie L. Lowery
Jim & Chris Lowe
James A. Luttie and family
Mrs. Ernestine M. Lindsley
Mrs. Delores Maddox
Mrs. Willie Grace Myatt
Jane Magee
Mr. & Mrs. Paul D. Brewer
Mr. William Clyde Maloney Jr.
Sunflower BC
Mr. Richard Maltis
Mr. & Mrs. Sonny Newton
Mrs. Lydia Matthews
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Knight
Mr. Chris McGuire
Mrs. Edna M. Gilliland
Ms. Katherine Meizinger
Mr. & Mrs. Krandal Howell
Ms. Barbara Easter Miller
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Smothers
Mrs. Alice Kathryn Moore
Faithful Workers SSC, Oak Forest BC
Mr. Walter Moore
Mr. & Mrs. Ray Wise
Mr. Victor Morehead
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph N. Bradshaw
Ms. Rose Alice Murray
Calvary BC
Mr. Jack Neely
Ms. Lucy B. Harris
Mr. James Nicholson
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis A. Buchanan
Mr. Luis Parodes
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy W. Hardy
Mr. & Mrs. J. V. Parker
Mr. & Mrs. Michael W. Parker
Mr. Wayne Parker
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy W. Hardy
Ms. Doris Pezant
Mrs. Barbara Toney
Mrs. Biddie Pickle
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Dew
Mrs. Barbara Hatten
Ms. Jane Pinon
Bovina BC
Ms. Hettie Marie Rankin
Susan Pope Artell
Joseph N. Pope, Jr.
"Sue" Pope
Mr. Billy Wayne Redditt
Mr. & Mrs. John B. Wright, Jr.
Mr. Frank Rhea
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry C. Thomas
Mrs. Imogene Robbins
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Hathorn
Ms. Mary S. Toney
Ms. Mary Rogers
Casella BC
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Mr. & Mrs. Monty Roseberry
Mr. Bob Ross
Mr. & Mrs. R. N. Humphreys
Mrs. Barbara Ryan

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Dew
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Mrs. Adele Smille
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Mr. Jack Stewart
Adult 7 SS Dept, FBC McComb
Mr. & Mrs. James E. Clark
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy W. Hardy
Wells Creek Hunting Club
Ms. Chrissy Wood Taylor
Weir BC
Mrs. Peggy Teel
Mr. John W. Teel
Mr. Thomas Wayne Thornton
Ms. Evelyn Thornton
Ms. Myrie C. Walters
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Smothers
Billy Tom Ward
Mrs. Ernestine M. Lindsley



FREE VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL NAME TAGS

Free Vacation Bible School name tags are available from The Baptist Children's Village. There are two themes. One to compliment the Lifeway theme and one generic design to work with any curriculum. There are also opportunities for BCV speakers to come to your church and for VBS mission projects.

Please go to www.baptistchildrensvillage.com for more information and to order your free name tags. Deadline extended to May 31!



YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN
THE BAPTIST CHILDREN'S VILLAGE
AS WE CELEBRATE
THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
DEANASH CAMPUS
80 SELLERS STREET | WIGGINS, MISSISSIPPI
SUNDAY, JUNE 11, 2017
2:00 TO 3:30 P.M.



Crucified • Matthew 27:41-52

What a journey we have been on during the last weeks of Jesus' earthly life. He had been nothing but forthright about what was going to happen yet the disciples were caught unaware; grief and fear took the place of joy and excitement. In a mere 24 hours, they had eaten the Passover feast and learned of a traitor in their midst. Jesus had been arrested, put on trial, convicted and hung on a cross. He was subjected to mocking jeers from the religious leaders and the crowd. Then from the cross, we hear His grievous cry as He quotes Psalm 22:1, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Jesus' grief-stricken mother and John, the Beloved Disciple, watched in disbelief as the One who only showed love placed them, now mother and son, together. It happened so quickly and I am sure it was very surreal.

The sin that began in the Garden of Eden had always been atoned for by the blood of bulls and sheep. God who once walked with Adam and Eve in the cool of the evening was seen only through smoke and a curtain. On this day, however, the sacrifice needed for man's sin would no longer need the blood of bulls and sheep for the ultimate cost would be paid by Jesus, God's own Son. We then hear another

cry, "Father, into Your hands I commit my Spirit," as Jesus breathed His last breath. Then, just like that, it was over. Jesus was dead. Can you imagine the anguished cries coming from Mary who only 33+ short years before, responded to the angel's announcement that she would birth the Son of God? How could this be?

Suddenly, amid the absolute stillness there began a rumbling and shaking as darkness descended upon the whole earth. Rocks were split in half. The cries of grief turned to cries of fear, and amid the chaos we hear the Centurion soldier cry out, "Surely this was the Son of God!" It might have seemed the earth itself was grieving but that would not be the case...death and separation was being defeated; tombs were opened and those long dead to this world walked in flesh once again. Something very dramatic had changed that day for the whole earth.



Explore the Bible

with Cyndi Grace

As electrifying as all of this was at Golgotha, something of equal importance was happening in the Holy of Holies in the Jerusalem temple. The veil that had separated God from His children for nearly a thousand years was torn from top to bottom. Scholars estimate this curtain was at least 60 feet high and 4 inches thick. Its purpose was to separate the Holy of Holies (which housed the

arc of the covenant) from the world. In all those years, very few had passed through its folds to enter that holy place. In fact, only

once a year and only by the high priest to atone for the sins of the people. Now, as the ultimate sacrifice was given, God took His Hand and split this barrier down the middle signifying that He would again have a personal relationship with His people. This provided salvation to all who choose to follow — Jew or Gentile. No longer would there be a need for an earthly high priest...Jesus was now our eternal high priest.

Do we in the 21st century understand this significance? Could it be that since we have always had this access we take for granted its importance? Perhaps we should contemplate it more often for at that very moment we were not only given eternal life but a personal relationship with our Creator. No longer did we need to fear God's presence as did Adam and Eve after their sin. Because of Jesus' sacrificial death, we can enter this Holy place—anytime. Hebrews 4:16 says, "Therefore let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us at the proper time." (HCSB)

The question we should ask is, "Why don't we?" We have the opportunity as no other faith does, to walk daily with our God. He desires to meet with us in this restored fellowship; to, if you will, walk again in the cool of the evening with us. I pray as we focus on this day of His crucifixion that we will not only focus upon the salvation it brings but also the restored fellowship. It is there we will discover "life abundant."

Grace is a Bible teacher, conference leader, and member of First Church, Clinton.

Life on Mission • 1 Corinthians 9: 19-27

The reason for the Incarnation of Jesus Christ, and God wrapping himself in human skin was so that he could communicate his love and plan for our lives up close and personal. He came to earth in the form of a human so we as humans could understand him. He met us where we were geographically, on earth, and spiritually, in our lost condition.

Our mission today is to meet people where they are and help them move toward God. That takes a lot of relationship investing. It requires time, selflessness, effort, flexibility, and intentionality on our part.

In the passages before us this week, Paul lays out his strategy for reaching people. It all starts with the right attitude. In verse 19 he is willing to be a slave to everyone in order to win more people to Christ. In verse 20 he taps into his Jewish heritage and vows to use it to build bridges to his own countrymen in hopes of them coming to faith in Christ. He continues in verse 22 pledging his willingness to become weak to win the weak. Summing it all up, Paul said, "I have become all things to all people, so that I may by every possible means save some."

How far are you willing to go to reach a lost neighbor, friend, family

member or coworker for Christ? What are you willing to do to help them realize their need for Jesus? Another way of asking this question, "Are you on mission with the Lord?"

Paul was willing to travel many miles for an opportunity to share the gospel. He was burdened by the fact that so many people he encountered were separated from God's love and trapped in their sin. That, too, is the plight of so many who live in our circle of travel and influence.

Sometimes we get so engrossed in the cares of this life that we fail to think about people's spiritual condition. Not Paul. He knew that the stakes were high and eternity was forever. Paul never forgot his life before Christ and how meaningless it was before he met the Lord on the Damascus road.

Do you remember your life before Christ? Was it something like this?

Your sins crippled you. You suffered from a guilty conscience constantly. You had no purpose. You had no peace of mind, only agitation. You were blind to truth. But then you met the King of kings and Lord of lords and you've never been the same.

People today need what only Jesus can give them. But how will they hear without a messenger? How will they come to understand their need for the

Lord unless we connect with them and show them what we have in Christ? And how will we connect with them unless we are inten-

tional about doing so?

It takes more than words to win people to Jesus. We must invest our lives in theirs like Paul did with the people of his day: "We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us" (1 Thess. 2:8

NIV). Few will come to Christ unless we invest our lives in them first.

In verses 24-27 Paul reminds us that partnering with God to bring others to faith requires tenacity, discipline and sweat. In fact, in 2 Timothy 4:5 he says to the young preacher Timothy, "But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry" (2 Tim. 4:5 NIV). Notice he uses the word "work" when talking about evangelism. Why? Because building bridges with people in hopes of bringing them to Christ requires work. It also requires patience.

Let us be intentional in developing relationships with unbelievers? Invest in their lives? Reach out to them through acts of kindness to win their friendship and a chance to be heard?

In Paul's farewell speech to the Ephesian elders he spoke some profound words about his commitment to speak gospel to any and all who would listen: "Therefore, I declare to you today that I am innocent of the blood of all men. For I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God" (Acts 20:26-27 NIV).

Burnett is pastor of Willow Pointe Church, Hattiesburg.

Bible Studies for Life

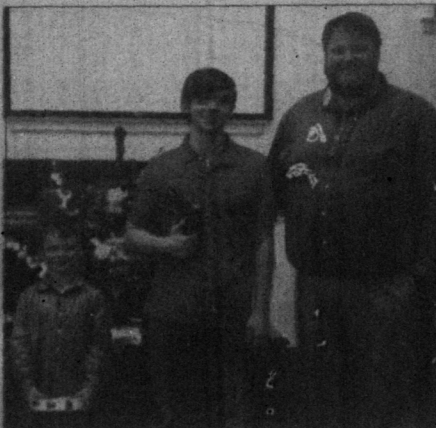
with Jim Burnett



Just for the Record



On May 14, **FIRST CHURCH, INVERNESS**, acknowledged their 2016-2017 graduates. Pictured from left to right: Kristen Smith (Doctorate in Practicing Nursing); High School Seniors: Allee Paxton, Hana Morgan Stricklin, and Conner Lang. Kristen Smith was presented with John Maxwell's book *Five Levels of Leadership*. The High School Seniors were presented with a NASB Life Application Study Bible.



BETHEL CHURCH, BOGUE CHITTO, recognized graduates Jase Ashley and Joshua Sasser May 7. Pastor Matthew Gazaway presented them each with a Bible from the church, following by an ice cream and dessert gathering.



TILLATOBA CHURCH, YALOBUSHA COUNTY, participated in the National Day of Prayer May 4. Shown are participants Rep. Tommy Reynolds, District 33, Mike Ramage, and Craig Baker.



HICKORY CHURCH, HICKORY, celebrated haccalaureate Sunday May 7. Shown are the high school graduates with youth director Ken Morgan and pastor Randy Rich.



Gary Kenneth Roberson III was ordained to the gospel ministry at **FIRST CHURCH, BRUCE**, April 9th. He is the new pastor of Rocky Mount Church in Calhoun County. Pictured below is (left to right) Gary Roberson Jr., Pastor of First Church, Bruce (father); Roberson, and Gary Kenneth Roberson, Sr. (grandfather).



WHITESAND BAPTIST CHURCH, JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY, honored their pastor of 14 years, Rev. Charles R. Burnham with a reception to commemorate his 50th year in ministry. Pictured is Bro. Charles R. Burnham with Dot Burnham, the church clerk who signed his license 50 years ago.



ECRU CHURCH, ECRU, held a baby dedication May 14. Pictured with their parents are Konner Jarvis, Livi Cate Chism, Lucy Harper, and Case Stubblefield. Also pictured is pastor Greg Lassett.



VICTORY CHURCH, BASSFIELD, recognized Slade McNeil and Evan Coulter for their graduation from Prentiss Christian High School. They are shown with pastor Nathan Barber.



LIBERTY CHURCH, CARROLL COUNTY, recognized Blanch DuBard, oldest mother; Mary Lou DuBard, most family members present; and Michelle Benson, youngest mother, on Mother's Day.



A group of women from **WANILLA CHURCH, MONTICELLO**, recently attended a "High Tea Worship and Fellowship" event at Mt. Pleasant Church in Bogalusa, Louisiana.

In other Church News:

> **Flat Top Unity Church, Picayune**, is hosting a Memorial Day Celebration May 28, 5 p.m., featuring a water slide, jumpers, snow cone truck, food, drinks, and special guests. Free.